CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. An information transfer protocol system connected to a network, a computer with a display for a user connected to the network, and an information transfer protocol using the network and supporting a process describable as a finite state machine and a state dependent information transfer message
where the information transfer protocol system comprising
the finite state machine describing the process,
an information storage,
a process state storage;
receives a first state dependent information transfer message from the network;
determines from the process state storage, the first state dependent information transfer message, and the finite state machine describing the process, the next state of the process;
determines from the next state of the process, the first state dependent information transfer message, and the information storage, the information needed to be entered by the user;
generates a screen displaying information from the first state dependent information transfer message and the information storage and requesting the information needed to be entered by the user;
sends the screen to the computer with the display for the user to enter the requested information;
receives the requested information entered by the user;
updates the information storage;
updates the process state;
creates using the information entered by the user and information from the information storage, a second state dependent information transfer message;
sends the second state dependent information transfer message to the network;
and, completes the operation on the first state dependent information transfer message.

2. The information transfer protocol system of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet and the computer with a display uses a Web browser for the display program.
3. The information transfer protocol system of claim 1, wherein the contents of the information storage or process state storage may be accessed from the network.
4. The information transfer protocol system of claim 1, wherein the contents of the information storage or process state storage may be altered from the network.
5. The information transfer protocol system of claim 1, further comprising a rule storage and a field value storage and before determining the information needed to be entered by the user, determines from the next state of the process, the first state dependent business information transfer message, the rule storage, and the field value storage, if an automated response is to be sent and if so determined,

   updates the information storage;

   updates the process state;

   creates using the information from the information storage, the first state dependent transfer message, and the rule storage, a second state dependent information transfer message

   sends the second state dependent information transfer message to the network

   and, completes the operation on the first state dependent information transfer message.
6. The information transfer protocol system of claim 1, further comprising a rule storage and a field value storage and before determining the information needed to be entered by the user, determines from the next state of the process, the first state dependent business information transfer message, the rule storage, and the field value storage, if a enterprise systems message is to be sent and if so determined,

   updates the information storage;

   updates the process state;

   creates using the information from the information storage, the first state dependent transfer message, and the rule storage, an enterprise systems message

sends the enterprise systems message to the network

and, completes the operation on the first state dependent information transfer message.

7. A private exchange server comprised of a first information transfer protocol system with a first user, a second information transfer protocol system with a second user, and an information transfer protocol wherein the first user modifies information in the first information transfer protocol system and based on the modification, the information transfer protocol modifies information in the second information transfer protocol system for use by the second user.
8. The private exchange server of claim 7 which is further comprised of a third information transfer protocol system with a third user wherein the first user modifies information in the first information transfer protocol system and based on this modification the information transfer protocol modifies information in the third information transfer protocol system for use by the third user.
9. The private exchange server of claim 7 and a fourth information transfer protocol system with a fourth user where the fourth information transfer protocol system is external to the private exchange server, both connected to a network that supports the information transfer protocol, wherein the first user modifies information in the first information transfer protocol system and based on this modification the information transfer protocol modifies information in the fourth information transfer protocol system for use by the fourth user.
10. The private exchange server of claim 7 which is further comprised of a fifth information transfer protocol system and a sixth information transfer protocol system with a sixth user where the sixth information transfer protocol system is external to the private exchange system, all connected to a network that supports the information transfer protocol, wherein the first user modifies information in the first information transfer protocol system and based on this modification the information transfer protocol modifies information in the fifth information transfer protocol system and based on this modification the information transfer protocol modifies information in the sixth information transfer protocol system for use by the sixth user.

11. The private exchange server of claim 7 and an external receiver of the information transfer protocol, both connected to a network that supports the information transfer protocol, wherein the first user modifies information in the first information transfer protocol system and based on this modification the information transfer protocol modifies information in the external receiver of the information transfer protocol.